

Suggestions, Comments and Other Related, Important Issues

1. Shade and Cooling Options

- Plant non-toxic, deciduous trees around the holding pen perimeters (especially the southern and western sides) – far enough away so that the horses and burros don't eat the trees. Use species that are fast growing, with low water needs.
- What about asking for bids from a solar panel company? They have them everywhere here in Las Vegas and use them as parking shade. They don't charge for installation and the money made from the power can pay for the equipment lease. (For example, see www.solarcity.com)
- Shade cloth is used in a variety of industries. There are similar products that block wind. Shade cloth can be installed a number of ways. One method is to attach it to a frame. I've also seen installations where grommets are added to the edge so it could be strung up with cable. Here's a link to the various fasteners available: http://www.shadewholesalers.com.au/shadecloth_fasteners.html. Here's a link to various structures using shadecloth: <http://www.shadestructures.net/categories/>. An idea of the cost:
[Coolaroo 90% UV Block Shade Cloth Roll - Size: 12' x 50', Color: Heritage Green](#) (hyperlink) \$220.08 per roll; [Coolaroo 70% UV Block Shade Cloth Roll](#) (hyperlink) - Size: 6' x 100', Color: Forest Green \$189.95.
Here's a link to a store that customizes shade cloth installation for the customer: www.shadeclothstore.com/. Absolutely no additional charges for edge binding, grommets, fabrication or custom sizes. It's all included! And it's easy to order shade cloth online. Order direct from the manufacturer and save big money. This business has a lot of different options available and many photos of custom installations for businesses and industries including livestock: **Shade Industries® Industrial Shade Structure Case Studies**, <http://www.shadeindustries.com/Industrial.php>
- Someone who works in the trucking industry just told me that there are stacks and stacks of slightly damaged heavy-duty tarp material that can be picked up at flat-bed trucking companies for FREE! Their average dimension is 50 x 30 feet. Just a suggestion. Thank you!!
- WeatherPORT is based out of Delta Colorado, provides shelter structures around the world. Sounds like a great public relations opportunity for them to get involved. www.weatherport.com .
- PVC could've used industrial hay tarps for the hay stacks and put those metal covers in the horse pens for shade, lining the edges with misters. I keep all my animals cool during the hot summer months through several methods: misters, sprinklers, ELECTROLYTES, shade trees, shade structures. For misters, see: <http://www.nevada-mist.com/cool.html>.
- Provide 50% shade options for all horses.

- Shade should cover eating areas and water. (Note: Comments mentioned that shade cools water and reduces evaporation during summer, shade also increases freezing of water during winter)
- Shade placement should accommodate horse-to-horse interaction.
- It would be good to confer with the people who operate the Ridgecrest facility. As shown in the photo, almost all of the captive Wild Burros are standing in the shade.
- Try experimenting with some short-term solutions to see what works best.
- Look at industrial misters. See: www.bigfogg.com.
- Build temporary sunscreens on the western exposure of all external pens around the outer periphery. Use UV resistant shade cloth and attach overhangs to exiting fencing (these structures are available on off the shelf). This mitigates any safety issues that might be in play if placed in pen interiors.
- Regarding shade options for compromised horses, they may not need 50% shade.
- Submit a Request for Proposals for structures that provide shade and other benefits (shelter, wind protection, solar energy, etc.)
- Evaluate different options for placement of shade (end of pen, middle of pen – food on one end and water on the other)
- Look at other examples – Ridgecrest has a structure in the middle of the pen, shade moves with the position of the sun.
- Create windbreaks using plywood and insert viewer windows made of plexiglass.
- Dirt does not dissipate heat – increase the amount of sage and grasses at the holding centers.
- Idea for economic shade: Erect 2 poles on fence line and place bar or cable to connect poles at top. Pull shade cloth over the top and cinch down on each end to tighten.

2. Research and Information Needs (wild v. domestic horses, stress, holding conditions)

- Capturing and removing these Wild Horse from their Legal Herd Management Areas has put them through tremendous stress. The physiological differences between domestic and captive wild horses are far too vast to make valid scientific comparisons.
- Wild horses and the stress of captivity, see: <http://wildhorsepreservation.org/wild-horses-stress-captivity-bruce-nock-phd>. (See also “socialization” comments.)
- Look at opportunities to partner with universities and organizations on research.
- Need definition of “compromised” conditions – stress levels of newly arriving horses are very high (especially for mares with foals).
- Look at effects of other weather extremes, including cold.

- Better research factors relating to conditions for foals and burros.

3. PVC facility operations

- Implement a strategic, focused pen cleaning program to provide horses with an area that is kept relatively clean, at least in part of each outer pen. I know there are many people who wouldn't mind help keeping those pens cleaner than they are all the time. The BLM should consider setting up volunteer programs with local horse people and non-profits who would love the chance to help keep the pens clean.
- The sprinklers were a good idea. Continue the program and give horses a chance to adapt.
- Salt licks should also be available for the horses. Sweating in the heat, makes them loose electrolytes and the salt licks can help.
- No overgrown hooves.
- In bad weather water standing in the pens can become a dangerous thing. Very young foals can and have drowned (died) in the pools.
- Provide shelter from wind and cold.
- Horses eat wood and brush in the wild to wear down their teeth. I provide my adopted wild horses with sagebrush and small cottonwood logs and they love them. These plants also provide some natural defense against biting insects, parasites such as worms and in preventing or treating sand colic.
- Tag ears like Dept. of Wildlife does the bears, some of the tags were way too tight around their necks.
- Over the long haul, add permanent shelter to all outer pens; allow foundational support to straddle adjacent pens to minimize cost.

4. Watering

- Joan Guilfoyle commented that horses in the big pens didn't need more than one water source because advocates had stated at a BLM meeting at Fish Springs that wild horse bands will politely wait in line for their turn to drink at small watering holes. It is certainly a common practice. This is made possible by the band structure. There are no bands at Palomino Valley, it's more of a survival of the fittest scenario.
- There must be more than one water trough for all the large pens, so that the more timid horses have access to water instead of waiting for the dominate horses to move away.

5. Socialization

- (See first comment under watering.)
- Extend the time that foals are kept with their mothers. It is too early to separate foals from mothers at 4 months of age.

- Put some birth controlled mares and mature geldings in with younger horses as this would offer some protection to the littlest ones and the older horses would help teach all of them their manners and continue teaching what it means to be a horse. This would help lower the stress/anxiety levels among the young and help them better combat the diseases that make the rounds.

6. Program Management

- Create federal guidelines for animal welfare and holding. Incorporate Carolyn Stull's "Standards of Care for Horses in California."
- Mix common sense with scientific studies. Look at the quality of life for animals.
- Initiating fertility control in areas where populations and land use and condition have been thoroughly and effectively documented and analyzed should be the main priority. No plan should be initiated without the input and sign off from a diverse group of qualified, interested parties that should include ranchers but not be dominated by them.
- This program is 40 years old, it is inexcusable that there is NOT a comprehensive humane handling procedure (shade/shelter at PVC; foals run until their hooves fall off). This should be past the study phase and into implementation.
- Process of allowing local groups or help agencies or rescue agencies to help should be increased and masterminded for a solid 2-20 year plan
- NAS study showed that increased gathers are not viable in the long term and we have seen this with proposed mass euthanasia of all horses in long term holding. We also have seen a report released by Animal Angels just today the numbers of deaths at Palomino Valley and other facilities is not what the BLM releases to the public. When is management on the range going to be a priority and used fully by BLM. Organizations have offered to buy grazing leases, to bring in water and hay and to work with the BLM to manage on the range.
- Double decker transport should be banned.
- Kill Pens selling illegal horses over state lines.
- Lack of subsidy for hay (hay subsidies for adopters).
- Why does BLM require that adopters provide shade and shelter, yet BLM does not?
- Transfer funding for roundups to on-range management and better welfare at holding centers. (\$500 - \$700 per horse to contractors was noted in one comment.)
- Consider wind turbines to draw up water. (Note: Wind generators/turbines can be noisy and may be stressful to the wild horses and burros.)
- Please provide shelter for wild horses & burros in captivity by BLM, at all BLM facilities & ones contracted out as well. They need to have an option, a choice to escape extreme weather events.

- The roundups are animal abuse and all the roundups and removals of our wild horses must stop now. There is no excess population as 70% of the herds are not genetically viable and sustainable. If and when horses need water and/or hay it can be taken to them instead of doing costly and unnecessary roundups and removals by any means including using helicopters or bait trapping. Also when the range is being depleted remove livestock from the HMA's.
- Create eco-sanctuaries where tourists, from around the world, can spend their dollars to shoot wild horses and burros from a safe distance with their cameras. This would open another stream of revenue for local, state and federal coffers.
- Take all weather elements into consideration, such as high winds, snow/rain as well as heat, when discussing shelter design.
- Tag ears like Dept. of Wildlife does the bears, some of the tags were way too tight around their necks.
- Birth control, tag their ears and set them free. Please do not send them to feed lots.
- Instead of spending some program money rounding the horses up, feeding them and nursing the ill - spend this money putting up fences to keep horses off the highways and personal properties and then ask for a list of volunteers to maintain the fences, keep track of the maintenance and then report after a year to see how that is working out. The results in money saved should keep the BLM happy and focus on something more important to spend the money towards.

7. Wild Horse and Burro Populations

- Initiating fertility control in areas where populations and land use and condition have been thoroughly and effectively documented and analyzed should be the main priority. No plan should be initiated without the input and sign off from a diverse group of qualified, interested parties that should include ranchers but not be dominated by them. (See also "Program Management.")
- There is an ever decreasing number of herd management areas, HMAs. Once in 1970s at 339, today at 165 though the BLM will tell you 179. The discrepancy between 165 and 179 has to do with double counts of HMAs, with counts of FS-HMAs as being BLM-HMAs, with areas counted as HMAs but with no horses or burros in them, and with areas counted that are managed and paid for by other entities.
- There are ever decreasing "viable" numbers in horse herds, as new Range Management Plans (RMPs) lower approved numbers of horses/burros in herds known as Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs). RMPs are politically motivated, influenced, and prepared. Gus Cothran, the retained geneticist for the BLM, says a "minimum" of 150-200 horses or burros are needed in a herd to maintain diversity and continued viability. Given that benchmark, only 28 horse herds have AMLs at 150 and above (14, 150-200 and 14, 200+).

8. Foals

- All foals need to be counted. I believe, currently, BLM only counts foals 6 months of age and older that are collected in roundups. Certainly foals 6 months and older are branded.
- Any foals born after the roundups in short term holding, need to be counted.
- Any foals that die - during the roundup, in transportation, in short term holding, need to be counted.
- When counting and documenting foals, use an approach that links mares with their foal. For example: MARE - #7620, FOAL - #7620A.

9. Roundups

- Stop running horses by helicopter!! Use water traps around watering holes. Use pole fencing and NO wire products that could catch hooves.
- Overall, roundups are cruel and protested in some areas.
- BLM should stop the roundups, these horses are national treasures.
- I think bait trapping is a much better means of going about capturing wild horses and burros for PZP application and removal of injured animals or animals to be put up for adoption. Bait-trapping must be video-recorded or witnessed by volunteers.

10. Transparency and Partnerships

- Installing remote video cams (that would be powered by the solar panels) in the structure could allow the public access to an interesting world they may never get to see in person.
- The development of public – private agreements to help manage wild horses and burros could have positive, proactive outcomes resulting in the ability of BLM employees to do more with their limited resources. It could give many wild horse and burro advocates a place to focus their energy and talents that would benefit the animals.
- More monitoring of the horses by the public will let you know what is really needed and the suggestions are abundant.
- Look at opportunities to partner with universities and organizations on research.

11. Other Comments

- Need to improve the audio (wireless microphone for people speaking) and visual (fine tune the webcam).
- Frustrating that the session was not more interactive. Need someone dedicated to tracking online comments.
- The quality of the audio and visual was horrible, the session was too scripted and did not allow for brainstorming.
- I am on the internet and sound and desk top are just fine.

- Thanks so much for holding the workshop and providing the webinar and this format. We are on our way to working together for the better well-being of the wild horses!
- I learned a lot!! And thank you to the panel of speakers!!
- Thank you for managing this workshop! You did a great job!
- First photo shows a wild band near Silver City, Nevada. Note group under tree. You will often find the mares with new foals under the trees, which suggests that the foals benefit from this protection. Where there are no trees or large brush, you will find the older horses will stand over the young foals to shade them when the group is resting. The one - two year old females are also used as babysitters and will also provide this kind of shade. The middle photo shows that domesticated horses also seek shade. 3rd photo shows an architecturally designed shelter to be used both as shade and a wind block. It has been designed specifically with horses in mind. Wild horses aren't comfortable with a solid type wall. In the wild, the horses are on the constant lookout for predators. The cracks between the horizontal boards provide that. The overhang is organic, both in shape and material.
- Horses in the wild would naturally seek shade in their environment if they could. In draws, under trees, behind billboards (you see this often in pastures along highways...livestock crowding into the shadows) and under whatever might give them relief from the sun. If there is no shade available, the horse would seek a higher elevation to reach whatever breeze might be available. And, whatever breeze might help blow insects away. If a horse in high heat has access to water, he would also naturally wade and/or roll in the water to cool off. The mud also helps protect the horse from insects. Horses in confinement under harsh weather conditions are also stressed. This could lead to injury as they each fight to be more comfortable. As they suffer endlessly they become naturally more cranky and a herd that had once had hierarchical cohesion, could easily see this break down, to the detriment of the individuals and the herd.
- In the wild, horses and burros are able to take shelter someplace, whether it be near a large rock, or near some large brush, but they have that choice!! Give them what they would seek in the wild....a way to get out of extreme weather conditions, be it extreme heat or extreme cold.
- BLM requirements to adopters: You MUST provide shelter from inclement weather and temperature extremes for your adopted wild horse or burro. Shelters must be a two-sided structure with a roof, well-drained, adequately ventilated, and accessible to the animal(s). The two sides need to block the prevailing winds and need to protect the major part of the bodies of the horse or burro.
http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/whb/files/adoption_requirements.pdf.
- I "attended" the meeting at City Hall concerning shade/shelter for the BLM horses & burros. Thank you so much for hosting this feature for those of us that, for whatever reason, couldn't personally attend the meeting. It was MOST informative and educational. I was able to hear all of what the facilitators shared, didn't hear the

questions, but that's okay. I realize that not all of the meeting would be able to be heard. I also saw some of the meeting, when the veterinarian was showing slides and when the last facilitator was writing down suggestions on the presentation board. I was also happy to hear my suggestion being mentioned (tarp material).

Thank you SO MUCH for extending the meeting to those of us with computers, internet, and WiFi (I have WiFi). I don't have a camera on my computer (I have a desk-top PC), but I was still able to see most of the meeting taking place, and am so happy that our comments and questions were taken into consideration.

- Look at whether funding allocations from Homeland Security to BLM can be directed towards the Wild Horse and Burro Program.